

# The Beacon

Academic Year 2021/22

Issue No: 12

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## *Hello from Mr West*

It is widely known that what children learn in their primary school years will hold them in good stead for the rest of their lives. It is recognised that when children go on to secondary school, life moves them away from these core values and beliefs – this is just part of the growing-up process, as the influence of their peers becomes more prominent. However, later in life people will often come back to the core principles they engaged with at an early age.

British values are a key driver in our everyday curriculum and it is important to remember that British values essentially are the cornerstones that individuals who live in Britain adhere to. The language we hear from the government is of 'promoting fundamental British values' and of young people 'accepting', 'respecting' and 'tolerating'. These are values that we have and will continue to promote and encourage at Montpelier. At this time it should also be remembered that these values are shared across our world and right now are needed more than ever.

Finally, a very personal 'thank you' to all the staff that work at Montpelier. The staff at Montpelier are an amazing group of people, who are doing incredible things at, what is, a challenging time. I would like to add that I can say that same about you, our parents, and for that I am extremely grateful. Have a great weekend.

## *Staff Car Park*

May we remind parents that the car park in North Down Road is for STAFF ONLY. As such the gate will be locked at 8:30am each morning. Parents should not use the car park at the end of the day either when collecting from clubs or Monty's Den.

We would also like to remind parents that they should **keep to the pedestrian areas** around the carpark and not walk across the carpark itself.

## *School Term Dates for 2021/2022*

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas Tree Festival

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 1 Nativity

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Foundation Christmas lunch

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 3 & 4 Christmas lunch

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 2 & 5 Christmas lunch

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 1 Nativity

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 1 & 6 Christmas lunch

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Foundation sing-a-long

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas party days for Foundation, Yr2, Yr3, Yr4, Yr5 and Yr6 children can wear mufti on these days

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas party day for Yr1 children can wear mufti on these days

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas Carol Service

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas jumper day

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021 – Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2022 Inc.** – Christmas holidays

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022** - non-pupil day

**Mon 21<sup>st</sup> – Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Feb** – half term

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr Inc.** – Easter holidays

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> May** – Bank holiday

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank holiday

**Tues 31 May – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June Inc.** - Half term

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June** - non-pupil day

**25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> July** - non-pupil days

**27<sup>th</sup> July** – start of the summer holidays

Montpelier Primary School			
Christmas Lunch			
Week Commencing 06th December 2021			
	Option 1 - Available to all year groups unless it is their Christmas Lunch day	Option 2 - Available to all year groups unless it is their Christmas Lunch day	Option 3 - Christmas lunch, this is the <b>only</b> option for this Year Group on this day, Turkey with all the trimmings or Quorn roast
Monday 06th December	All Day Breakfast	Jacket Potato Beans, Cheese or Tuna	N/A
Tuesday 07th December	Cheese Wheels (H/V)	Jacket Potato Beans, Cheese or Tuna	<b>Foundation @ 11:30</b>
Wednesday 08th December	Cottage Pie (H/W)	Jacket Potato Beans, Cheese or Tuna	<b>Year 3 &amp; Year 4 @ 11:30</b>
Thursday 09th December	Roast Beef (H)	Jacket Potato Beans, Cheese or Tuna	<b>Year 2 &amp; Year 5 @ 11:30</b>
Friday 10th December	Fish & Chips (H/W)	Jacket Potato Beans, Cheese or Tuna	<b>Year 1 &amp; Year 6 @ 11:30</b>

## STAYING SAFE ONLINE

The following links are useful websites to support you and your child to access online content safely. Some of these will be really useful in creating safe digital habits just in time for the holidays.

Website	Link	Information
Common Sense Media	<a href="https://www.commonsensemedia.org/homepage">https://www.commonsensemedia.org/homepage</a>	<i>'Reviews for what your kids are into (before they get into it)'</i>  Information about apps, games, videos, etc.
Internet Matters	<a href="https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/">https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/</a>	Step-by-step guides designed for parents on how to set up consoles to support their children in the gaming environment.
Google Family Link	<a href="https://families.google.com/familylink/">https://families.google.com/familylink/</a>	Google guide to support children using android tablets and phones.
Apple Family Share	<a href="https://www.apple.com/uk/family-sharing/">https://www.apple.com/uk/family-sharing/</a>	Guide to support children using iPhones and iPads.

## *School Timings and absence – a polite reminder*

A reminder of the start times for children at Montpelier. Being on time is vital. Arriving late at school can be very disruptive for your child, the teacher, and the other children in the class. Children arriving in their classroom after the close of registration (after 8:50am for Foundation and KS1, and 8:45am for KS2) will be marked as late.

After 30 minutes children will be marked as 'late after registration' – this is an unauthorised absence on your child's records. Children are welcome to come onto the school playgrounds from 8.30am onwards, doors will open at 8:35 for KS2 and 8:40am for Foundation and KS1. Children coming into school after these times need to sign in at the school office.

**Why is it important for children not to miss school?** If children do not attend school regularly, they may not be able to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up. And it's not only the academic work: missing out on the social side of school life – especially at primary school – can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships, a vital part of growing up.

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery classes through primary school, will also help your child later on. Employers want to recruit people who are reliable. So children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of getting a good job.

Foundation	KS1	KS2
8:40 – 8:50am Doors open & registration	8:40 – 8:50am Doors open & registration	8:35 – 8:45am Doors open & registration
9:20 – 9:50am Break	10:30 – 10:45 am Break	10:30 – 10:45 am Break
11:50am – 12:50pm Lunch	12:10 – 1:10pm Lunch	12:15 – 1:15pm Lunch
3:10pm Finish	3:10pm Finish	3:15pm Finish

The school should be notified on the first day of absence, for whatever reason, for a child's absence. All absences must be accounted for by letter, telephone or in person. Please expect a call/text from one of our Administrators if we do not receive a call explaining the absence first thing on that first day. There is a dedicated absence answer-phone so messages can be left 24 hours a day. If you email the teacher direct re any absence, appointments, holidays etc please copy the admin team in too [admin@mpsplymouth.net](mailto:admin@mpsplymouth.net).

Parents of children with persistent absence may also receive a letter requesting medical evidence for all future absence – i.e. a doctor's appointment card, prescribed medication or doctor's note/letter. Any absence without this proof will be recorded as unauthorised.

## *Covid*

If you or your child develop any of the symptoms of Covid-19, even if they are mild you must get a PCR test

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

## *Children's Nasal Flu Vaccine*

If your child missed out on their nasal flu vaccination, for any reason, please contact the Virgin Care Team on 0300 2470082

## *Is my child too ill for school?*

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools, these say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone school on the first day and give a reason for absence.

### *Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

Keep your child off school if they have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste
- Stay at home and book a PCR test for your child.

### *Chickenpox*

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

### *Conjunctivitis*

Children with conjunctivitis need to be kept off school until antibiotic ointment has been applied for 24 hours.

### *Headaches*

A child with a minor headache doesn't usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms, such as a raised temperature, but if symptoms persists consult your GP.

### *High temperature*

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until their temperature returns to normal.

### *Impetigo*

If your child has impetigo, they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment.

Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups.

### *Rashes*

Rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses, such as chickenpox or measles. Children with these conditions shouldn't attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP surgery or pharmacy.

### *Scarlet fever*

If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

### *Sore throat*

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.

### *Vomiting and diarrhoea*

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting need to stay away from school for 2 days after their symptoms have gone.